

Moravian Rectory

Oliphant's Mill, Gloucester County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Moravian Rectory
Oliphant's Mill, Gloucester County, New Jersey

Owner: The Protestant Episcopal Church of New Jersey

Date of Erection: Middle eighteenth century; rebuilt
1775

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame
construction, clapboards

Interior walls - plaster
with some paneling

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch, wood
shingles

Historical Data:

The land upon which the rectory stands was bought on January 22, 1767 by Bishop Seidel of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, from George Avis and his wife Jane for five pounds. Since the rectory was rebuilt in 1775, the date of erection is somewhere

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in the eight years between these dates.

The following items from the diary of Frederick Schmidt, who served as pastor from 1769 to 1783, are evidence of the activity around the rectory and church during the Revolution.

"On Friday, Dec. 5, 1777 twenty American militiamen were quartered in the parsonage."

"On Feb. 25, 1778, over 2,000 English troops passed on their way to Salem. The house was full of soldiers, polite, but they carried off all the rifles and arms they could find."

"Feb. 26, 1778. The garrison left for Bethlehem, having been here several months. The neighbors talk of flight. Myself and wife have determined to remain."

"June 12, 1778. A skirmish took place near here between the English and the militiamen. One of the later was killed."

The rectory was deeded to the Protestant Episcopal Church of New Jersey in 1836 at the same time as the church (NJ-81A).

Bibliography:

Steward, F. H. (compiler and editor)
Old Gloucester County, New Jersey
Published by the New Jersey Society
of Pennsylvania, 1917 (See section
by George B. Macaltimer on "The Moravian Church")

DATA NOT PRESENTED FOR NOT GUARANTEED
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Heston, A.M. South Jersey A History
1664-1924 2 Volumes New York, Lewis
Historical Publishing Company, 1924

Material collected by Elizabeth and
Frances Moffett

Field Book and Drawings of Survey


Supervising Historian

Approved:


SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

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